



IB INTELLECT



IB STUDENT CONFERENCE A SUCCESS AT HOLY CROSS COLLEGE



Friday, October 21 brought some 130 IB students from as far away as New Albany and Floyds Knobs near the Ohio River, to Holy Cross College in South Bend for an *IB Student Conference*. The one-day event was organized by the Hoosier Association of IB World Schools (HIBS), and sponsored by Holy Cross College, HIBS, IB Source (Chicago), and SBCSC.

Organizers were happy to host keynote speaker Brianna Smrke from Toronto, Canada who spoke to students at the start of the conference.

Smrke accomplished perfection in IB tests by scoring an amazing 45 points in her tests in 2010 – a feat reached by less than 200 students globally every year! She was warmly welcomed by the students in attendance who were eager to get the signature of the author of a book entitled *“High School Hacks”* (2016), that encourages IB students to persevere and keep their lives in balance as they pursue the coveted IB Diploma. According to Smrke: *“My favourite moment was seeing hands being raised all over the auditorium the moment I finished my talk, because students had so many questions. Witnessing how engaged and curious the students were made me very certain that they have bright futures ahead of them, and reminded me of the special qualities all IB students share!”*



Following the keynote speech, the Vincent Building and Driscoll Auditorium buzzed with student led talk sessions, while eight Indiana university and college admissions representatives shared what they can offer to the students as they consider their future educational careers.

Student participation at a conference such as this allows for much interaction amongst the IB students in Indiana, and the event was a win-win situation for all involved. This year, students came from New Albany, Floyd’s Knobs, Kokomo, Chesterton, Goshen, Valparaiso, and South Bend. Thanks go to Holy Cross College for hosting the event and for having a vision for the educational future that both students and institutions share in common. Thanks also to the many John Adams High School students and faculty who helped in spending part of their Fall Break at this daylong event.

Finally, we recognize the sponsorship and support of **Xanatek, Inc.**, **Quality Turf Management**, and **Radiology, Inc.**, in supporting the IB Program and specifically the John Adams student involvement in the IB Student Conference. Their sponsorship helped in the purchase of conference T-shirts for the volunteers and presenters. It was nice to see the many blue t-shirts in the audience, and when help was needed, many of our JA volunteers were there to help! Thank you all!



234 STUDENTS TO TAKE IB TESTS IN MAY 2017!

A total of total of 234 students have registered to take IB tests next May! WOW – that’s a big jump from the 185 that tested last year. We have 40 students pursuing the IB Diploma; 45 are identified as “Anticipated IB Diploma candidates” for next year, and 149 students have signed up for course testing and the IB Certificate.

A recent survey by the Hoosier Association of IB World Schools sought information on May 2016 test registrations and success rates. The following data is based on results received from twelve schools that responded (Adams, Carmel, Cathedral, Chesterton, Goshen, Guerin Catholic, International School of Indiana, Lawrence North, New Albany, North Central, Northridge and Pike HS).

The highest number of students who registered for IB testing in May 2016 was found in **Guerin Catholic HS**, where 234 students registered for testing. Last year John Adams had a total of 185 test takers.

The highest success rate for IB Diploma graduation was found at **Carmel HS**, where 100% of eight diploma candidates were awarded the IB Diploma. **Goshen HS** had the highest average points obtained by a candidate that passed the IB Diploma at 32, and the highest average grade for IB Diploma candidates at 5.08. Goshen also had a highest number of IB Certificate recipients with 173. The **International School of Indiana** in Indianapolis had the highest point total by any single diploma student at 39.

And what about us? Impressively, **John Adams** had the highest number of IB Diploma candidates with 35, and highest number of candidates that passed, with 27! Go Eagles!

MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH THE TURKU INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN FINLAND

At the end of September, Dr. Mika attended an academic conference in Turku, Finland. During this visit abroad, he met with Mr. Raimo Junnikkala, IB Diploma Program Coordinator for the Turku International School and Principal Marjut Kleemola (see photo on right). In an effort to establish some international connections with IB schools, this was an opportunity to create collaborative efforts, which might benefit both John Adams High School and the Turku International School.



Mr. Junnikkala was very excited to present some ideas that we all could benefit from. We are now establishing student contacts with foreign pen-pals via e-mails, which could develop further into Skype conversations and a short 2-week student/teacher exchange visit between the two schools. Opportunities such as this help everyone in developing their sense of international mindedness. A group of Grade 10 Pre-IB students in Finland are waiting to connect with students here, and Dr. Mika is working with JA sophomore magnet parents in establishing connections for the benefit of all. Some of our students will take advantage of opportunities such as this over the months and years to come.

NASA ASTRONAUT LIEUTENANT COLONEL GOOD VISITS ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

A special visit by a NASA Astronaut took place on Friday, Oct.14. A large number of IB and Honors Science and Math Students listened during the 7th period visit held in the John Adams HS Auditorium. The keynote speaker was Lieutenant Colonel Michael T. Good, USAF (Retired). Lt. Col. Good was a distinguished graduate of the Notre Dame Air Force ROTC Program in 1984. He is also a retired Astronaut, who served with NASA from 2001 to 2012. During his career as a NASA Astronaut, he performed three Space Shuttle missions. The most significant mission occurred in May 2009 when he was a member of the Space Shuttle crew that conducted the final repairs on the Hubble Telescope. During that mission, Lt. Col. Good achieved the current record for the longest spacewalk at 9.5 hours. Lt. Col. Good shared slides of his experiences, encouraging all students to dream big and to pursue their goals. While his trips to space are over, the Lt. Colonel is confident that some of our current students could be future astronauts who will journey to Mars! To surprise of our guest, Mr. Walsh led the audience in singing happy birthday to Lt. Col. Good, who celebrated his birthday a day earlier! Many thanks to Mr. Walsh for this fantastic event.



Photo on right - Lt. Col. Good stands between two Chinese exchange students.

CELEBRATING THE RICH HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS AMERICA

By Beckie Hernández, IB Spanish

On Friday, November 4, the IB Spanish HL/SL grade 11 classes welcomed members of three different indigenous tribes to a two-hour in-house field trip in the Large Group Instruction (LGI) room at John Adams. Hosted by Mrs. Beckie Hernández and Mrs. Cecilia Stanton-Verduzco, the event focused on the indigenous peoples of Indiana, Michigan and Peru, as a way for students to compare and contrast the rich histories and current problems native nations face throughout the Americas.

During 4th hour, students met Polly Mitchell and Donald Sumners from the Department of Education of the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi in Dowagiac, MI. Mr. Sumners is a tribal member and Ms. Mitchell grew up on a reservation in Arizona. The audience watched "The Canary Effect," a documentary about the history of the native tribes' relationships with the U.S. government, and listening to first-person accounts of life as a native American.



During 6th hour, students heard from Victor Maqqe (see photo left), a professor at Notre Dame and member of the Quechua community of Perú. In addition to talking about the vast diversity of native tribes in Perú, he was able to teach the students some Quechua before a brief time of questions and answers.

Grade 11 student Alyssa Dang wrote: "The presentations...were very interesting because I could feel how proud they were of their heritage. I liked that they were able to have fun, but they planted questions, too."

Grade 11 student Ben Kolda added, "I liked the presentations because native Americans [on both continents] are very interesting to me, and I believe all Americans need to know about them."

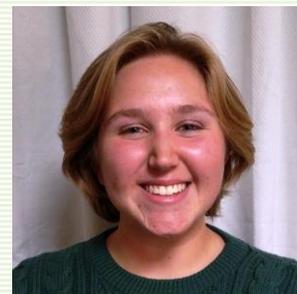
Mrs. Hernández and Mrs. Stanton-Verduzco are already making plans for next year's event.

THE TRAVELING FORK AWARDED TO ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

This year's Student Hunger Drive participation ended with a final event on Nov.18 at the Salvation Army Kroc Center. John Adams entered the evening with 8,453 lbs of



food. The winner of the skit contest won an additional TON of food (2,000 lbs). Abby Kern (writer extraordinaire) and her cast, created an amazing skit and won the contest. This took our total to 10,843 lbs, not enough to win the overall contest but the skit win was the best. JA is now the proud winner of the Traveling FORK trophy! Thank you to Emily Zablocki and students for their wonderful work!



LIFE AFTER ADAMS

The *IB Intellect* welcomes updates from our IB graduates. This month we hear from **Sarah Bowling** (IB Certificate 2014). A sophomore at IU Bloomington, she is pursuing a B.A. in Anthropology with Certificate in Underwater Resource Management and Spanish Minor.

I started freshman year at Bloomington as Exploratory (Undecided). I took a lot of random classes to figure out what interested me the most but the problem is, I couldn't decide. I still have doubts about what field I should focus on and, while that's scary, it's pretty amazing. This enthusiasm for learning anything and everything I can undoubtedly stems from IB. The way in which the IB program pushes students to constantly connect disciplines is why I am a better student in and out of the classroom. I think about real world examples and there's always another perspective through which to analyze a problem. The IB program helped me widen my horizon so that I'm not limited to just one discipline or one career path. The IB program is a place where eager learners have opportunities to explore what interests them in an extensive way. The IB program is an endurance test, I know. It's a conditioning for anything to come in life. But it's not for everybody and that's okay. It's something I believe should've been stressed more. The IB program isn't going to hold your hand, but it will give you the tools and skills you need to get yourself to where you want to go, if you wish to use it. Go Eagles!

(Source: e-mail from Sarah to Dr. Mika Nov.12, 2016).

FRESHMAN MAGNET STUDENTS VISIT THE INDY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Freshman magnet students have traveled to Indianapolis since 2011 to attend the largest pan-ethnic festival in the state – the Indiana International Festival, which brings thousands of visitors to explore and experience foreign cultures.

On November 11, a group of 50 students traveled to Indianapolis with a Royal Excursion bus and visited dozens of countries by checking off information in small passports provided by the Indiana Nationalities Council,



Students participate with the Indy TaiChi Fitness Club.



Our magnet students were able to take risks and try foods that were not so familiar. And while everyone enjoyed the visit, it is also noteworthy to mention that for four of our own students, it was the first time they had visited Indianapolis! Next year, we may have to do more than just attend the festival....



John Adams students and chaperons pose in front of the Blue Ribbon Pavilion

UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

December 15	Deadline for SBCSC Freshman Magnet applications
December 23	Deadline for turning in EE Final Draft by Senior IB Diploma students to EE Advisor
Dec.24-Jan. 8	Winter Recess
January 12	End of 1 st Semester, Deadline for turning in finalized EE to EE Coordinator
January 17	First day of 2 nd Semester

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE IB INTELLECT

Stories from students and teachers are encouraged. Please submit materials to Dr. Mika. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, Feb.3, 2017. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list for Adams IB Magnet families, please send your e-mail address to Dr. Mika at mroinila@sbcsc.k12.in.us.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

